

those who are serving today, those who are willing to pay the ultimate cost and, particularly today, as we focus on these 13 individuals who did pay that price.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF ANGEL KELLEY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the confirmation of Judge Angel Kelley to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

In a legal career that has already spanned almost 30 years, Judge Kelley has excelled in everything she has done, and she has done a lot. She has been a trial attorney, a legal instructor, and a State court judge in my home State of Massachusetts.

She has devoted her entire professional career to serving the public. She began her practice of law representing children in delinquency and protective care cases in New York. She went on to serve as a senior trial attorney and assistant chief for litigation in the fast-paced and demanding Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She served as an assistant U.S. attorney.

She has taught litigation skills to students at Harvard University Law School and supervised them representing indigent clients appearing in probate and family court.

As a judge sitting in the Massachusetts District and Superior Courts, she has presided over hundreds of trials. She has issued opinions in civil and criminal proceedings, addressing topics including employment discrimination, judicial immunity for testifying witnesses, grand jury integrity, the right against self-incrimination, and public records access. Her opinions suggest a thoughtful, balanced, and evenhanded approach.

Judge Kelley has throughout her career demonstrated one thing above all else, and that is an abiding commitment to our Nation's promise of equal justice under the law. She has been a leader in the Massachusetts judiciary on fulfilling this promise, especially to litigants of color. She has been a friend and mentor to many members of the legal community and their affinity groups, with her nomination receiving strong support from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, the Massachusetts Hispanic Lawyers Association, and the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, among others.

At a time when our Federal bench needs both diversity of experience and diversity of background more than ever, Judge Kelley meets the moment with qualifications that are, unfortunately, too rare for Federal judges. It is my sincere hope to see more nominees like Judge Kelley in the near future as we help reshape America's judiciary to better suit the people it serves.

In light of her qualifications, experience, and service, including a unani-

mous "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association, Judge Kelley received bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee to advance her nomination. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination here on the floor and vote yes to confirm her so that we can fill a long vacancy on the Massachusetts Federal court with a true, outstandingly qualified jurist who represents the best of our judicial system and our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

NOMINATION OF VERONICA S. ROSSMAN

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to speak about Veronica Rossman, President Biden's nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Ms. Rossman comes to this floor with broad legal experience and a sterling reputation in Colorado. Veronica cares deeply about justice and the rule of law because she knows what it means to live without it.

Veronica was born in Russia, where her family faced anti-Semitism at every turn. Her grandparents couldn't openly practice their faith because they feared retaliation at work. Her father was a brilliant career scientist who was routinely denied promotions. Her mother, a talented pianist and music teacher, never openly shared her faith until the family fled Russia.

In the end, Veronica's parents knew that anti-Semitism would stand in the way of her enormous potential, and they wanted her to grow up with a freedom that they never enjoyed. And like so many others in our country's history, Veronica and her family came to America as political refugees.

And from virtually nothing, Veronica built a distinguished legal career. She worked hard and earned a BA from Columbia University, and then a JD from the University of California at Hastings.

She clerked for Justice William Maupin of the Nevada Supreme Court, who could say not enough about her brilliant legal mind. Veronica then practiced appellate litigation at Morrison & Foerster, where she worked on one of the largest international patent cases in history.

Later, she served as a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and taught for 3 years at the University of Denver as a visiting professor of law.

In private practice, Veronica specialized in complex civil litigation and handled cases about everything from antitrust law to intellectual property law.

At this point, Veronica could have pursued any number of high-paying legal jobs, but, instead, she became a Federal public defender for the districts of Colorado and Wyoming.

And over the past 12 years, Ms. Rossman developed rare expertise as an appellate specialist, handling direct criminal appeals from every judicial district in the Tenth Circuit.

In her time as a public defender, she has handled or supervised over 100 appellate matters before the Tenth Circuit. She has represented more than 250 indigent clients—from controversial defendants to people sentenced to long terms for a nonviolent offense, even though they had no criminal history.

She fought for every one of those Americans, often against long odds. But more than that, she fought for the American ideal that everyone deserves equal justice under the law.

If confirmed, Veronica would be the only judge on the Tenth Circuit with experience as a public defender. We need more judges like Veronica, who are not only highly qualified, but who know what it means to be on the wrong end of the legal system that too often fails the most vulnerable in our society.

I know some of my Republican colleagues worry about confirming public defenders because they don't know that much about civil procedure. I don't share that view. But in Veronica's case, it doesn't apply anyway. When she was in private practice, as I mentioned, she worked exclusively on civil matters. She taught civil procedure at the University of Denver.

And some others have suggested that public defenders bring in an ideological agenda to the bench. In Veronica's case, that couldn't be further from the truth. Her family's story has proven her profound appreciation for how, at its best, the rule of law is an antidote to the arbitrary administration of law based on prejudice.

And you don't have to take my word for it. Here is what she told the Judiciary Committee under oath. She said:

[If confirmed. . . . In every case, I will treat all litigants respectfully and impartially;. . . . I will carefully review the record on appeal; I will put aside any personal views; I will faithfully adhere to the rule of law.

Ms. Rossman's qualifications are obvious. She has been a first-rate lawyer, and she would make a first-rate judge. That is why the Judiciary Committee sent her to the floor with a bipartisan vote. Now I hope all of us can come together and confirm this outstanding nominee.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will continue the important work of confirming President Biden's judicial nominees.

From the moment President Biden entered office, Senate Democrats have worked closely with his administration to identify nominees with impeccable credentials and extensive experience. Together, we have worked to restore balance to our Nation's Federal courts by confirming nominees with diverse professional and demographic backgrounds.

Today, I would like to speak in support of three such nominees: David Estudillo, nominated to the Western